

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 SIL-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /071 W

----- 073108

R 241235Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4943

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP MO KN PFOR

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION IN CASABLANCA TRADE FAIR

1. ROK EMBASSY OFFICIAL GAVE US RUNDOWN MARCH 21 ON NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION IN CASABLANCA TRADE FAIR SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 24 - MAY 11. NORTH KOREANS BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOROCCANS ON ISSUE LAST SUMMER THROUGH NORTH KOREAN AND MOROCCAN EMBASSIES IN MAURITANIA, OFFICIAL SAID. THIS LED TO GOM'S RECEIVING NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION IN RABAT END DECEMBER. GOM THEN DECIDED IN MID-FEBRUARY TO INVITE NORTH KOREA TO CASABLANCA FAIR. CHINESE NOT PARTICIPATING THEMSELVES BUT HAD BEEN HELPING NORTH KOREANS VIS-A-VIS GOM.

2. ROK HAS MADE KNOWN ITS CONCERN OVER INVITATION TO NORTH KOREANS IN VARIOUS WAYS TO GOM, OFFICIAL NOTED. PRESIDENT PARK HAD RAISED ISSUE WITH NEW MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR (RESIDENT IN JAPAN) DURING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, AND KOREAN EMBASSY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF MFA, COMMERCE AND INFORMATION OFFICIALS IN RABAT BELOW MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AS WELL AS GOVERNOR OF CASABLANCA, WHO PRESIDING OVER FAIR. ROK EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED WORKING LEVEL INDICATION, SUBJECT  
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TO APPROVAL HIGHER UP, THAT GOM WOULD KEEP NORTH KOREAN

PARTICIPANTS FROM ACTING AS THOUGH THEY WERE REPRESENTING A STATE -- I.E., NO FLAG OR NATIONAL ANTHEM. ON OTHER HAND, GOM OFFICIALS TOOK POSITION THAT FAIR WAS A PURELY COMMERCIAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL EVENT, RECALLING THAT EAST GERMANY AND CHINA HAD PARTICIPATED IN SUCH GATHERINGS BEFORE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. GOM HAD BEEN UNIMPRESSED BY ARGUMENT THAT NORTH KOREANS COULD USE OCCASION FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. GOM MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED IN FAVOR OF INVITATION TO NORTH KOREANS BY EARLIER ROKG INDECISION ON ITS OWN PARTICIPATION, OFFICIAL SPECULATED. ROK HAS NOW DEFINITELY DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, ALTHOUGH ON SMALLER SCALE THAN NORTH KOREA.

3. ROK AMBASSADOR, OFFICIAL ADDED, INTENDED TO RAISE MATTER WITH FONMIN LARAKI AND MIN COMMERCE GHISSASSI AS SOON AS HE COULD. FACT THAT LARAKI CURRENTLY ON TRIP ABROAD, PLUS SHORT TIME LEFT BEFORE FAIR OPENS, WOULD NOT HLEP ROK EFFORTS, OFFICIAL THOUGHT. IF ROK COULD NOT PREVAIL ON GOM TO DISINVITE NORTH KOREANS, HE INDICATED, LIMITING THEIR ACTIVITIES WOULD BE NEXT HIGHEST ROK PRIORITY.

4. ROK OFFICIAL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FONMIN LARAKI'S TRIP TO CHINA (MARCH 15-21) MIGHT HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON GOM-ROK RELATIONS. ON POSITIVE SIDE, LARAKI, HE HAD HEARD, WAS ALSO TO STOP OFF UNOFFICIALLY IN JAPAN ON WAY BACK TO MIDDLE EAST, AND ONE MEMBER OF LARAKI'S PARTY, A DEPUTY IN COMMERCE MINISTRY'S DIRECTORATE OF EXTERNAL TRADE (TAHAR BOUCHARA), WOULD PEEL OFF TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA. NEUMANN

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## Message Attributes

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